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Mr. Kinley

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MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS

ON OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF

HON. WILLIAM McKINLEY

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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Hon. Thomas T. McCarty, in calling the Bar Association to order to hear the report of the Committee on Resolutions, said:—

Gentlemen of the Bar:

"This meeting—adjourned meeting of the bar of Stark county is held on account of the death of our most illustrious brother member. Of all the bar associations in the universe it was the privilege of our bar to furnish one of the brightest stars in all the galaxy of brightness while living, and one of the brightest jewels in all the diadems of those who have passed to the other shore. Other bar associations, feeling deeply bereaved and keenly the loss of the bar at large, have met and adopted appropriate resolutions. Our bar suffers as a family when a beloved mother is stricken down by death, and we are here, gentlemen, having been honored as no other bar association on earth has been honored in the life of William McKinley, and now suffers deeper and more poignant grief than any other bar association does or can suffer, to try to adopt appropriate resolutions touching the life and death of our own dearly beloved member. Our bar is better, our city is better, our county is better, our state is better, our Nation is better; aye, the world at large is better for the life of William McKinley; and while we suffer and grieve, let us bow in submission to the will of Him, who rules on high, and remember that in the "way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death."

Memorial.

The members of the Stark County Bar deeply deplore the untimely loss of the most illustrious of their number in the death of President William McKinley. His entire professional career having been passed in our midst, renders his death a personal loss to each surviving member of the bar.

William McKinley began his active career as a soldier in the Union Army. At the call to arms, he dropped his books and devoted over four years of his youthful manhood to the defense of his country in a war for the maintenance of the integrity of the Union. Enlisting as a private soldier at the age of eighteen years, in a regiment from which have come Presidents, Statesmen, Jurists and Scholars, by soldierly conduct, valor and merit, he won his way in actual service from the ranks to the position of Major.

Supplementing his literary training by the practical education of the soldier during four years of actual war, he was fitted to assume and acceptably fill in after life many responsible positions, including the trying office of Commander-in-Chief of the armies and navies of the country in time of actual war. With his character strengthened by the years of discipline and service seen in the army, his mind stimulated by association with such lawyers as Stanley Matthews and Rutherford B. Hayes, who were his companions in arms, he resolved upon his return to civil life to study and practice the profession of the law. He was fortunate in his choice of a preceptor in the person of the late Judge Glidden, of Mahoning County, well and favorably known to the members of this bar. After

a course in the Albany Law School, he was admitted to the bar in 1867, and opened an office for the practice of his calling in the City of Canton. In the succeeding ten years and until his election to the House of Representatives of the United States, for the term beginning March 4th, 1877, he was continuously and actively engaged in the practice in this County; for one term he served with marked distinction as Prosecuting Attorney. His career at the bar gave ample evidence of that greatness of mind, purity of character, and kindness of heart, now known of all men, and of which his future career gave so many and striking illustrations. To every cause he gave a full measure of preparation. He was particularly distinguished as an advocate, presenting his causes to juries in such fair and just manner as to command their confidence and respect. To the Court, upon questions of law, he was lucid, strong and convincing, never pressing an argument which he did not believe in himself. To his adversaries, at the trial table, he was ever courteous and considerate, realizing that the objects of legal investigation are to arrive at the truth and subserve the ends of justice. He always aimed to keep forensic discussion upon the high plane of honest difference as to law or fact, and never indulged in personalities with opposite counsel or witnesses. To his colleagues he was ever kind and considerate, doing his share of the labor in a case, never shirking responsibility or with-holding from his associate the share of honor and praise which was his due.

Early manifesting a strong interest in National and State politics, he became a careful student of public questions, and by his industry, natural force and eloquence, soon acquired a widespread fame as a political orator and debater.

In 1876, at the same time his friend and military chief-

tain, Rutherford B. Hayes, was chosen to the Presidency, Major McKinley was elected a member of Congress from this District. For fourteen years he rendered honorable and efficient service as a representative of the people, advocating with zeal and courage those measures which he believed were for the best interests of the people; he retired from Congress as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, after framing the Tariff Bill, which has gone into history bearing his name. Defeated for Congress by a small majority, in a new district where conditions made such result inevitable, he faltered not in his adherence to the principles he believed to be best for the public good, but after defeat confidently appealed to the people for a vindication of his political conduct, and was twice elected Governor of Ohio.

Chosen to the high office of President of the United States, he entered upon its duties on March 4th, 1897. He found his country upon the verge of war, the sympathies of the Nation aroused for a suffering people near our own shores, who had long borne with foreign oppression and against whom a war of subjugation was being waged by methods which shocked humanity and aroused the just indignation of all civilized people. With a firm purpose to relieve their distress, and to secure for the oppressed better government and fairer treatment, at the same time safe-guarding our own interests, he bent every energy to accomplish this purpose by peaceful means. By steady pressure upon the Spanish government he obtained many concessions, looking to the better treatment of the Cuban people, and seemed in a fair way of obtaining the desired ends, when the treacherous destruction of a ship of the American navy, with her officers and crew, determined the American Congress to demand an end of Spanish sovereignty

in Cuba. He had been a soldier, and realized the horrors of war and the untold suffering it would visit upon innocent people. He remained firm in his determination to prevail by peaceful methods, if possible; yet resolved that existing conditions should no longer prevail in Cuba. While preparing for war with tireless energy, he did not relax his efforts for an honorable peace until the Spanish government answered our demand for its withdrawal from Cuba and adjacent waters by sending passports to our minister at Madrid.

Knowing that nothing is so cruel as a long struggle at arms, he bent every energy of the Government to a vigorous prosecution of the war, by land and sea, with a degree of success unrivaled in the history of warfare. At the close of the struggle, he directed the conclusion of a peace, which, recognizing the purposes of the war and the obligations arising from its prosecution, forever banished Spanish rule from the Western Hemisphere, and took upon the Nation the supreme duty of raising to political manhood and capacity for self-government many millions of oppressed people in distant islands of the sea. Under his benign leadership, sectional strife and bitterness were forever banished from the country. It was his privilege to behold, at the close of the war, a country united as never before, recognized as one of the foremost peoples of the earth. Secure in the confidence and love of his countrymen, at a great festival of peace, with words of concord and goodwill upon his lips, by the cruel hand of an assassin, he was suddenly stricken unto death. That such a man could thus be cruelly slain demands at the hands of the American Congress and the Legislatures of the States the enactment of such laws as will, when efficiently enforced in the courts, do all that law can do to make a repetition of such

monstrous deeds impossible. If, from this time forth, our people shall put down malicious attacks upon law and government; shall prevent the dissemination of the doctrines of anarchy, and punish as treason attacks upon the Government, through the person of its Chief Magistrate, we may indeed believe that our beloved President has not died in vain.

Of those traits of character, which made him a most devoted and loving husband, and endeared him to us as the gentlest and kindest of friends, we may not now trust ourselves to speak. Loving his home, and looking forward with undisguised joy to the day when he could lay down the cares of state to become again a citizen and neighbor, it is difficult to realize that we are never more to feel the pressure of his friendly hand, or look upon the manly beauty of his noble face. Noble and true in life, he met death with an heroic fortitude that was sublime. "His will, not ours, be done," was the simple expression of the faith of his Fathers, in which he had lived, and in which he died.

Words are inadequate to express the deep sympathy which we extend to the sorrowing companion and family in their affliction. Unconsciously, but none the less accurately, he depicted his own character and career, when he said of Garfield, his lamented predecessor:

"In him we find the best representative of the possibilities of American life. Boy and man he typifies American youth and manhood, and illustrates the benefits and glory of our free institutions. He did not flash forth as a meteor; he rose with measured and stately step over rough paths and through years of rugged work. He earned his passage to every preferment. He was tried and tested at every step in the pathway of progress. He produced his passport to every gateway of

opportunity and glory. His State sustained him, and at last the Nation rewarded his courage and consistency with the highest honors it could bestow."

WILLIAM R. DAY,
WILLIAM A. LYNCH,
JOSEPH FREASE.
RALPH S. AMBLER,
JAMES J. CLARK,
FRANK L. BALDWIN,
DAVID FORDING,

Committee.

Address of . . .

Hon. William R. Day.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bar:

Our thoughts today turn from the image of a lamented President, mourned of all mankind, loved of all people, forever secure in the history of his country's great leaders, to the young and buoyant presence, which came into this community thirty-four years ago to begin the struggle of life in his chosen profession. The world is filled with the praises of all men for his achievements at the head of one of the most eventful administrations in our history. We know that when he took up the reins of government, he found his country distracted with rumors of war, her industry depressed, her people divided, her true place in the world's family unrecognized and unappreciated. We know that under his leadership, the fires of sectional hatred have forever gone out. Our people are united as never before; a dominion of more than four hundred years of colonial misrule and oppression has forever ended; the bounds of freedom made wider by the acquisition of new people; a nation potent in the great affairs of the world, with domestic happiness and prosperity abounding at home. We know that another great character has been added to the world's leaders, taken in the zenith of his fame to a place among the immortals.

Today we turn to thoughts of what our departed brother was to us, and to pay the last sad tribute of affection to one, who never lost his interest in the companions of his young manhood, whose welfare was ever near to his heart.

Mr. Lincoln, in the year 1850, prepared notes for a lecture to law students, in which he said:

"Discourage litigation—persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often the real loser—in fees, expenses and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.

Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects of titles whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his

pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it."

To the class of lawyers who discourage litigation, who act the peacemaker between neighbors, and do all they can to keep clients out of court rather than to help them when in it, William McKinley belonged. He always recognized that disputes must arise, which can only be settled by orderly controversy and decision, and that man has not yet devised a better method of settlement than by honorable and orderly forensic discussion, "When eye looks into eye and voice responds to voice" in a forum governed by law.

It was Major McKinley's ambition in his early years to become a lawyer, and the widest horizon of his hopes took in as the grand prize to be striven for, a place upon the Common Pleas bench of his District. That he would have made a good judge, no one doubts who is familiar with the strength and fairness of his mind and his intuitive sense of justice and right so essential to success upon the bench.

The war and its four years of service, destroying his hope of further collegiate instruction, nevertheless broadened and strengthened his character, taught him to submit to reverses, to be moderate in success, to be cool, self-reliant, watchful and courageous; qualities as essential to the lawyer as to the soldier.

When the young lawyer came to Canton, he opened an office in the same building with one of Canton's famous lawyers, Judge George W. Belden. Judge Belden had been upon the bench and was United States District Attorney for Northern Ohio under Mr. Buchanan, and as such prosecuted the famous Slave Rescue Case tried at Cleveland in 1859. The young lawyer attracted the attention of Judge Belden. In those days a Canton lawyer worked in his office evenings as well as in the day time. One evening Judge Belden brought a file of papers into Major McKinley's office telling him the case would be argued next morning and he wished him to argue it. This was sudden, but there were some hours before morning, and these the young advocate devoted to preparation. The next day the case was called and Major McKinley argued and won it. Judge Belden offered him a partnership. The offer was accepted, and from that time his position at the bar was secure.

As Prosecuting Attorney, he never allowed private malice to control public prosecution, and made it a rule never to recommend an indictment unless the proof warranted the belief that the accused was guilty. He soon became engaged in important civil causes. He tried a great variety of them. He was in many of the leading cases in the county.

In a famous case of alleged malpractice he was associated with John McSweeney and William A. Lynch for the defense. In this companionship of great lawyers, he did not suffer by comparison.

At one time there was a great strike in the Massillon coal region. Riot ensued. The militia was called out; men were arrested and brought to Canton under strong guard for trial. They appealed to Major McKinley to aid in their defense. He investigated the case and found some of the men had been wrongfully accused of complicity in the acts of violence charged. He undertook their defense, and was successful in securing an acquittal of the majority of them. Realizing their hardships he refused all compensation for his services.

In the trial of a case Major McKinley gained the confidence of the jury by the fairness and courtesy of his conduct, and into all his arguments was thrown the silent but potent influence of a character beyond reproach.

To the Court, he was thorough and logical, and always fair; to a jury, he had the same power of epigrammatic expression which has enabled him to state party policies and political views in phrases which compass a great truth in a few plain words. He had the faculty of putting things so that the jury could readily comprehend and follow his arguments. He spoke to them as he has since spoken to the people, appealed to their judgments and understanding rather than to passion or prejudice.

When he went into Congress in 1877, as he often said, he found his legal experience of great benefit to him. In Congress he served on the Judiciary Committee of the House with some of the best lawyers in the country. In that service legal knowledge and judgment are essential to success. He bore his full share in the discussion and decision of the important matters which came before that body.

The election of Judge Taylor, as Gen. Garfield's successor in the House, raised a novel and important question of law. Gen. Garfield was elected to Congress from the Nineteenth Ohio District. His subsequent elevation to the Senate, followed by his election to the Presidency, necessitated the resignation of his seat in the House. In the meantime the Ohio Legislature had gerrymandered the district so as to change somewhat the territorial construction of the Nineteenth District. Was Gen. Garfield's successor to be chosen in the old or new district? This was purely a question of law. Major McKinley's presentation of it to the House is a model of compact and clear legal discussion. It is such an argument as might have been addressed to the Supreme Court had the question been pending there.

His speech on "Counting a Quorum" in the Fifty-first Congress, is the most full and complete presentation of that question made in the House. It is a demonstration of the absurdity of members effecting a constructive absence by remaining silent in their places when public matters are to be voted upon.

Here is a specimen paragraph which well illustrates his style of legal argument: "Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the question? What are we contending about? We are contending as to how it shall be ascertained that we have a constitutional majority in the House. We insist, and the Speaker's ruling so declares, that members in their seats shall be counted, for the purpose of making a quorum, and that their refusal to respond to their names upon a call of the roll, though present, shall not deprive this house of moving in the discharge of great public duties and stop all legislation. Gentlemen upon the other side insist upon what? That they shall perpetuate a fiction—that is what it is—that they shall perpetuate a fiction because they say it is hoary with age; a fiction that declares that although members are present in their seats they shall be held to be constructively absent. That is what they are contending for. We are contending that this shall be a fact and a truth, not a fiction and a falsehood, and that members who sit in their seats in this hall shall be counted as present, because they are present. They want the Journal to declare a lie; we want the Journal to declare the truth.

"Let us be honest with each other and with the country. Let us defeat bills in a constitutional way, or not at all; give freedom of debate, opportunity of amendment, the aye and nay vote, by which the judgment and will of every representative can be expressed and responsibility fixed where it belongs, and we will preserve our own self-respect, give force to the constitution of the country we have sworn to obey, and serve the people whose trust we hold."

Major McKinley's speech in advocating the passage of a Bill, providing for arbitration to settle controversies between interstate carriers and their employes, is a fine specimen of legal argument. His views are thus summarized:

The features of a successful arbitration law are:

1. Arbitration should be authorized and favored—not compelled, and should be free of expense to the parties.

2. The parties themselves should retain the right of selecting their own arbitrators, if they so desire.

3. Awards of arbitration should rest for their sanction upon their own manifest justice and merits. This, of course, would not apply where the parties covenant in advance for other means of enforcement.

4. Investigation into causes of strikes, etc., when made, should be thorough and impartial; and when disagreements continue after awards of investigation, the facts should be laid before the public.

Legal training is apparent in a mind that could thus forecast the difficulties and embody the essentials of a successful arbitration law. While he was Governor of Ohio, a law was passed based on these principles. It worked admirably. An efficient Board of Arbitration was appointed. Many difficulties which threatened the peace of the State have been amicably and satisfactorily settled.

He ever believed legal training and discipline one of the best of preparations for success in public life. It was a common expression of his when looking for someone to execute an important task, "Find me the best lawyer you can who will undertake the work."

His confidence in the profession was shown, among other things, in the fact that when he died, the heads of the two great departments of War and Navy were filled with distinguished ability by members of our profession.

From the time he opened his office in Canton until he closed his career in his tragic death, his was a continuous growth and development. With steady poise he arose equal to every occasion, and proved himself competent to the great opportunities of his career.

He never tired of repeating the incidents of his professional life, and while he would probably never have resumed the practice of his profession, his countrymen would have insisted upon the benefit of his counsel and advice in the great affairs which are sure to crowd upon our attention in the future.

No man had greater right to hold life dear than had William McKinley on that fatal day when he was stricken.

He had earned a place in history seldom accorded to man. He was loved of the people, as has been truthfully said, as no other President was ever loved while in office. He had been tried sorely, and his patience, wisdom and courage had raised him to the highest place in the confidence of his countrymen. The great problems of his administration were in the way of successful solution. The home he loved was to be his resting place, and the friends of his youth the companions of his retirement. The life of his dear companion had been graciously spared, and together they might hope for many years of comfort when the responsibility of office was laid aside. These things, and more, must have been before his

fading vision when he beheld the conqueror of all men at his bedside, and he did not falter.

Nobly as he had lived, so passed the grand heroic soul away.

To the surviving members of this bar, where he lived and wrought, he has left the light of his example and the precious memory of his friendship, more dear to us now than all the tributes with which the world will crown his memory.

Address of . . .

Hon. William A. Lynch.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

The sixth of September will ever be a black-letter day in the American calendar. What a universal thrill of horror smote the American heart! How the Nation stood aghast, incredulous, appalled.

Then as death tarried on the threshold, first came a faint shred of hope, like the first sign of morning, long before the break of day; and as days passed slowly, how it grew, growing brighter and stronger until hope seemed certainty, and the general feeling became almost an outburst of joy at the prospect of speedy recovery. But alas, we rejoiced too soon. The bitter end came at last, and today, in common with all our countrymen, we stand overwhelmed in the profoundest sorrow.

It is certainly fitting that the bar of Stark County should meet, as is the established custom, to notice the death of our departed brother, and to place upon the records of the court its testimony of his worth, and an expression of its sense of the Nation's loss.

For myself, I am grateful that after fifteen years of almost unbroken absence, I am permitted to come back and participate in these mournful proceedings.

I knew William McKinley well. When he came here upon a visit, before coming to settle, I made his acquaintance, and when he was admitted to the bar and came here to begin his life's work, I gave him the hand of fellowship and welcome, for but few young men were then at this bar—and we became friends—a friendship, I am proud to say, continued unbroken by the contests of professional life, undisturbed by differences of political faith, from that day to the day of his untimely death.

And now, as I stand here on this site of our early struggles, looking back over that more than a third of a hundred years, what memories throng upon me!

How well I remember our first long walk and talk, and the many walks and talks that followed, and the discussions of our early cases, then so important and of such absorbing interest! And well I recall the long ride we once took in going to deliver

addresses at a celebration of the Fourth of July; and how full he was of the prospects of happiness upon his engagement to her who is now his disconsolate and broken-hearted widow.

I remember as though it was yesterday, his first case in court. It was not a weighty cause, but it gave him that chance so important to the young lawyer, to appear in court, and how well he improved the opportunity. I can see him now as he stood before the court for the first time, young, eager, ambitious, well-prepared, self-posted, but not over-confident; how he impressed me as he arose and told the court "What we contend for in this law suit." I recall the very words of his opening.

As a result of that maiden effort he was at once offered a partnership by ex-Judge Belden, one of Stark County's ablest lawyers, but then retiring from active practice. This connection brought business and opportunities to appear before the courts, and for ten years he devoted himself to active work in the profession. The trend of his abilities and ambition led him toward advocacy rather than counseling or office work, and he took advantage of every occasion to appear at the bar and take part in the trial of causes. He became a good trial lawyer, diligent in preparation, conscientious in his work, absolutely true to his client, and during his first ten years at the bar, he took part in many of the most important causes that were tried here.

When but two years at the bar he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and discharged the duties with marked ability and success. During those ten years I was in many cases with and against him, and you will all agree with me that if there is any relation in life that will give one a better knowledge of a man than trying a case with him, it is trying one against him.

Looking back now to those years of almost constant struggle on the same or opposite sides of the bar table, I desire to say that Mr. McKinley was a good lawyer, an able advocate, and had he continued the pursuit of the law throughout his active life, he would have been rated as one of the strongest lawyers and most persuasive advocates.

When I learned from the papers that two of the ablest lawyers of the Buffalo bar, upon assignment of the court, had undertaken the defense of the miserable wretch that brought this gloom upon us, I felt how thoroughly he would, if he could, have approved of their course, and their high conception of a lawyer's duty. For my mind went back to the time when he himself conducted the defense of one who was charged with the attempted assassination of two of our leading citizens, one a prominent member of this bar, and made a strong defense, based on the sup-

posed insufficiency of evidence, which was wholly circumstantial.

It is not my purpose to speak of Mr. McKinley's political career, but there is one fact in connection with his early life that is not without interest. In those days members of the Republican party took different views upon some important public questions, notably that of Negro Suffrage. Some were radical, others were conservative. In the year he came here, 1867, he took an active part in the speaking campaign for his party. The result for the County and State was in doubt, and before it was settled Mr. McKinley declared that there was one candidate on the ticket for whose success he was especially anxious. It was supposed he referred to his friend, General R. B. Hayes, who was then candidate for Governor. "No," he said, "my especial candidate is Negro Suffrage." That was the year in which that question was submitted to the popular vote of the people of this State; but, although the Republican party carried the State by heavy majorities both before and after that election, the proposition for Negro Suffrage received but 216,000 votes out of a total of over five hundred and forty thousand. Mr. McKinley was counted a Radical.

Of our deceased brother's political life and services I shall not speak, for they are household knowledge from Maine to California, but I cannot refrain from speaking briefly of the elements of character which made his great career possible. Looking back to his early efforts in court, and from that to the end, the underlying element of success has always appeared to me conspicuous —his self reliance. In all his public efforts that came to my knowledge, from the first court argument to his last public address at Buffalo, which I cannot but regard as one of the most fortunate for his enduring fame as a statesman, he showed that fundamental element of self-reliance.

With equal clearness appears another great line of character —steadfastness of purpose. He was careful, deliberate, prone to consult and to weigh well before adopting a course. But I, who did not often agree with him politically, venture the statement that few public men have shown so consistent a course in a long public life.

But of more importance still was that homely virtue which we call "common honesty." In his long career in public office, what opportunities offered to prefer and enrich himself! To what mighty temptations must a weak man have been subjected occupying the place and wielding the power he did when chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. But what partisanship or jealousy dared to say, or to think of saying, that one dishonest dollar ever crossed the palm of William McKinley? Do not imag-

ine that I am giving him special credit for this. It is the right of the country that its public men should be honest; but the young men of the land who look to his career for inspiration must learn well the lesson that such a career was impossible unless founded on the most unyielding personal integrity.

But now, Mr. Chairman, I cannot be so selfish as to take more of the time of this session, when there are so many who must wish to speak. I have come here to add a few simple words to the great chorus of eulogy that has sounded throughout the land, yes, throughout the world. I must admit, Mr. Chairman, that when I stood here thirty years ago, struggling over the question whether the line fence between two farms should stand where it was, or be moved a rod one way or the other, I did not realize that the lawyer on the other side of that petty issue would one day fix the boundaries of our National Domain. I did not anticipate his great career. But I knew then, as the country has since come to know, that William McKinley was a man of constant growth; studious and industrious, he enlarged by experience. His career in Congress was a great training in public affairs. Yet his personal labors were so largely confined to one great measure that some called him a man of one idea. But when he became Governor of our State, new questions were brought to him and he showed his broadening power. Few men have so grown under the pressure of new questions. In his last great office he displayed great reserve of intellectual strength and power of will; he showed the accumulative effect of years of training. He displayed a matchless power in the control of men that comes from years of experience. Tact, strength and wisdom blended happily in his conduct of public affairs. His fame is secure. He is enrolled forever as one of our martyred Presidents. Whatever history may say of his policies, of his character there will be no doubt. He lived a great life. He was able; he was honest; he was patriotic; he died the beloved of all people.

Address of . . .

Hon. Jacob A. Ambler.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

If Your Honor please, not being a resident of this county, I came here today in answer to the very kindly invitation of the members of this bar, who, on account of my long association with them have kindly treated me as a quasi member, and so invited me to this meeting. I came, not intending to say a word, but by my silent presence to bear witness to the high esteem in which I have always held the distinguished member of this bar who has gone to his account, and to thus testify my affection for him whom I have known so well.

It is now thought that I should say a word, and so, called on, I cannot hesitate to give some expression to my feelings, and perhaps it is right that I should say something on this occasion, as I suspect that of those who are present today, I had the earliest acquaintance with William McKinley.

I first knew him as a boy in the neighboring county where he then resided. I knew him as a student of the law with my then associate on the bench, the late Judge Glidden, of this district. I knew him afterwards when he came to Canton to commence the practice of his profession, and knew something—but not as much as his brethren residing here—of his experiences as a member of this bar, before he entered into political life.

I had the honor to represent this district at the time of his first visit to the Capital of the Country. As my guest he first entered the hall of the House of Representatives at Washington—which he afterwards honored so highly. My seat, as the then member from this district, in the Forty-first Congress, was the first seat in that hall that he ever sat in, and I have since been proud that the seat was so graced.

I knew Mr. McKinley professionally, politically and socially, for more than a third of a century, and, I think, had abundant means for forming a proper estimate of his character, mentally, socially and morally, and I can very heartily endorse what has been so well said today by the distinguished gentlemen who have preceded me on this occasion.

It would be idle for me to attempt to go into any detail. Any

words that I might use would but feebly express my high appreciation of him as a man, a lawyer, a member of Congress, and Chief Magistrate of this country.

He was a great man. Great in his earnestness of purpose, in his integrity, his foresight and his confidence in the common people, on whose judgment he was wont to rely. While he sometimes was slow in forming opinions, and had the habit of hesitating until the subject for consideration had been well weighed, and his judgment well matured; but, when he had made up his mind, he had the courage of his convictions, and did not hesitate in action. And the people at large, whom he believed in as the proper rulers of the country, had confidence in him in a very marked degree, and supported his policy to the end. What a magnificent President he made! How he graced the office and the office him!

What a magnificent presence he had! It was my fortune, when I was younger and he a young man, and when I had some little connection with the politics of the State, to frequently be with him in public places amongst those who then saw him for the first time, and I could name dozens of people of prominence, who, struck by his appearance, eagerly inquired who he was. He had a singularly noble presence, and his presence was expressive of his nobility of character.

When I think of the manner of his death, it is too much—I cannot speak. We are all deeply impressed by the horror of his assassination, and I think we all feel that the dreadful act, so without cause or excuse, gives color to the claim of Mr. Lewis—his counsel by appointment of the court—that the assassin was in some sense insane—not legally insane, for it is evident that the miserable scoundrel knew and intended the consequence, on account of which we mourn today.

I will not detain you longer; it is not right that I should. Many of you, his brethren and fellow townsmen—his neighbors—whose association was by reason of being his neighbors more continuously close and intimate, are better prepared to speak of him, and I have no right to take your time, for they can more worthily speak on this occasion.

Address of . . .

Hon. Warren W. Hole.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bar:

I had not expected to be called upon for any remarks, and I do not intend to say more than a word or two. Perhaps all that I should do at this time is to suggest one important lesson which the world, and this country, especially, must learn from the death of our beloved ruler.

It was my privilege to be present at the trial which took place last Monday and Tuesday, and I was impressed with the thought which was enforced in the speech for the defense, made by Judge Lewis, when he referred to the importance of vindicating the majesty of the law in this land. The manner in which that trial was conducted leaves no excuse for the advocate of lynch law; and yet the trial, though speedy, was not conducted with any undue haste, but the defendant was given every opportunity which an enlightened and humane law has extended to those accused of crime. I have heard a good many criminal trials —I have presided at some—but I never expect again to witness a trial where the counsel for the defendant, doing as well as he could a disagreeable duty which had been thrust upon him, did it so ably and so well, and yet, at the close of his remarks, gave way to tears, not for the defendant for whom he was speaking, but for the victim of that defendant's crime. The last words of the able advocate were: "The death of the President is the saddest blow I have ever received," and he took his seat with the tears streaming down his face. Notwithstanding that this crime was so shocking to all our citizens, and so inexcusable as to bring such tears to the eyes of the defendant's advocate, yet there was no clamor of a mob calling for lynch law. At this time, when some men—one even as high as a United States Senator—have allowed themselves to give utterance to words justifying lynch law, it is certainly encouraging that there was no attempt at mob violence, and a trial held with all the elements of fairness and justice which surrounded the case at Buffalo this week.

Though the death of our President has saddened the hearts of his countrymen, let us hope that his own words of protection for the assassin, when he was stricken down, and the history of

this trial, may go a long way toward ending the prevalence of lynch law in this land.

Our beloved President has gone to his reward, but his name will remain for generations to come as an incentive to every true American lad. William McKinley was not a spasmodic reformer. He was not a man to plant a flagstaff, and attach a banner of reform to be torn down by the next gale, but any reform which he advocated was planted like a tree. It was watered and cared for, and today many of the laws which he was instrumental in framing, some of which have been referred to today, are standing like thrifty trees, and will give shade and refreshment to his fellow citizens in all the ages which are to come.

Address of . . .

Hon. Isaac H. Taylor.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bar:

Neither did I come here to speak on this sad occasion. I came here to listen to men more eloquent and more able to do honor to this illustrious dead—and we are here today to do honor to a great, a grand and a good man. Great as a soldier and patriot; great as a member of Congress; great as the Governor of this great commonwealth; great as the President of this great Nation, but greater and grandest of all in his domestic and Christian life. What he has done as a statesman—his record as a statesman—after a while will be remembered as history. The example he has left us of a pure life and of a Christian character will be remembered by our households while there are households; it will be remembered in our families while there are families. And that noble expression of his: "It is God's way, His will, not ours, be done," will live side by side with the teachings, and with that expression of the great Apostle to the Gentiles: "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord will give." The faith expressed in that sentiment, and the resignation expressed in that sentiment, will live side by side with the expression of the patient man of old: "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, and blessed be the name of the Lord forever."

His act at the time of his most foul murder, when he lifted his hand and pleaded that his friends might not tear his foul assassin to pieces—that is not his language, but that is his sentiment—will live side by side with the expression of the Divine Teacher as long as the Christian religion is taught on earth, and until its final triumph, when He said: "Lord, forgive them, they know not what they do." These are the things which will be remembered when his record as a statesman may be remembered as history only.

I knew Mr. McKinley first when he came to Carroll County to make his canvass, when he was first a candidate for Congress. I had seen him before, but I got to know him during that campaign. I remember that those who wanted the office said, and that those

who were friends of the other candidates said, "It is all on the surface, when you see Mr. McKinley you see all there is of him; he will go to Congress, he will remain there for a term or two, and that will be the end of it." How he must have surprised and disappointed them, for his growth was uniform and regular until he achieved the highest station in life. There were no haltings in his progress; there were no backward steps in his character and his career. I had the honor to be in the Forty-ninth Congress; he was in that Congress, and the Republicans were in the minority. Mr. Reed was the Republican leader on the floor, by reason of his caucus nomination for speaker, yet Mr. McKinley was the real, substantial leader of the House, and particularly on tariff matters and tariff legislation. While he took an active part in all that was going on, he spoke but seldom, but when he did speak, or it was known he was about to speak, every eye was turned toward him. The House was all attention. The country was all attention.

When have we had such another example—when has any country had an example of so complete, and so perfect, and so well rounded out a character of a great man, of a grand man, of a good man, as in the history and life of President McKinley?

Address of . . .

Hon. James A. Rice.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bar:

I regret that I am compelled to leave this gathering before all who will and ought to speak have done so, and I offer this as my excuse for saying a word at this time, and at what appears to me out of turn.

It is interesting to me, as a younger member of the bar, to listen to the beautiful truths told of William McKinley by the members who knew him during his younger days, and, in fact, throughout his life. It occurs to me that in their knowledge of and acquaintance with him, they have been highly favored and greatly rewarded. We younger men learned to know him slightly, but well enough to cause us to love and admire his personality. In his untimely death it seems to me we sustain the greater loss.

I have thought many times, especially during this past summer, as I so often passed his home and received his pleasant salutation, what a privilege, what a comfort, and what a great pleasure it would be to us all to have him again among us after his retirement from public office.

His patience with and cordiality toward young men promised much to us younger members of this bar.

It is a source of pleasure to me now that in all that I have said and done in a political way, I have never said or done anything in reference to President McKinley that causes me any regret. His opponents could not but love and respect him, because of his love and admiration for them, if they were but honest and fair.

One of the noblest of his qualities is evidenced by the fact that he never quarreled with an enemy.

I knew the brightness of his nature and the warmth of his heart. I know, therefore, that those of us who had been his sincere and honorable opponents were to receive from him, when he returned to live among us, the same cordial greeting that would be extended to those of you who had always been his political friends and supporters.

I feel deeply the loss of the man and citizen, and I grieve with the Nation.

He was too good a man; he was too great a man to be taken away as he was. Of all men he should have been permitted to live out his full time. Good, true and noble as was his life, it is too bad that the world had to lose a single moment of its natural period.

A Poem by . . .

Charles Krichbaum.

Come back to rest at home,
Your labors done, come home.
You drank the martyr's cup
To lift divinely up
The Nation's sacred life
Beyond the reach of knife
Or shot of miscreant.
Our better natures chant
You requiems of love.
Your death's won deathless love.
The Nation now is bound
By bonds not to be found
Except in such as come
Through holy martyrdom.
All party spirit's dumb
By deathless love o'ercome.
Not fearful of the fate
That hangs above the great,
A ruler plain you stood,
Seeking the common good.
You the foremost citizen,
Communing with your countrymen—
What more fitting place to be,
For apostle of democracy.
Your grasp of friendly hand
Like the touch magic wand
Thrilled through the people's blood
Sweet human brotherhood.
Poor poison-minded man!
Confusion curst the plan
By which you sought to kill,
By vicious cunning skill,
The people's government.
God quick His mercy lent,
Made good, what ill was meant,
Scarce could you, poor ingrate,
Your foul deed consummate,
Till buttressed was the government
By high and lofty sentiment,

That stood like bastions wide
Four square on every side
The fabric reared through blood and tears
By Washington and his compeers.
The Nation's righteous ire
Leaps up with ardent fire.
Our pulses now beat strong
In diviner mood 'gainst wrong.
We've found a new and better wealth
In manhood pure. A sturdier health
Springs conquering in the Nation's breast.
Its aims are high, it craves the best;
Rejects the poisoned fruits
Of self-enforced idleness,
The crude, unkempt recruits
Of anarchy's bad prophetess;
The spawn of dive philosophy,
Malevolence, and black atrocity;
Dregs, of the struggling human race,
Who aspire downwards, and who efface
The stars of hope, whose faith is dead;
Whose bread is murder, and whose light is red.
God save us from such hideous night!
God flood our path with holy light!
Toil, service and obedience,
Through love and truth and reverence,
Make up the sacred plan
By which God builds a man.
'Long this highway our martyr came
To wholesome fruitful fame.
God took him in the golden prime
Of his fair life. Remorseless time
Will never dim his lustrous name.
For years beyond our ken, his fame
Our glorious heritage remains.
Ours are imperishable gains!
The choicest civic fruit
Grown from the sturdy shoot
Of Scotland's hardy race.

Classic, grand, ideal face,
Benignant, human, kind,
Long-suffering, deep, refined.
A prince of lovers too,
Chivalrous through and through.
Here statesman, soldier, friend,
In perfect man did blend;
Sure faith in God and man,
Ideal American.
As long as love of home
And country shall endure,
Will trooping thousands come
To pay you homage pure.
The flag we all revere,
Shall daily, year by year,
In Heaven's shining stars,
And blue of sky, and bars
Of sunset, white and red,
Fall peaceful on your bed.
Your life's a river pure,
The streams whereof are sure
To gladden all the hearts,
And water all the parts
Of our dear Native Land.
Long may it glorious stand—
The land of every land the best,
The asylum for the world's oppressed;
Where high and low have equal chance,
In man's blood-bought inheritance;
Where man's the finest fruit
That earth holds up to God;
Where progress finds her strong recruit
His feet with justice shod.
We are God's people yet;
Nor shall we soon forget,
That love can rule, and die
For that it ruled, and by
A Christian death mount high
To goodly fame, where lie,
In their immortal beauty,
Above the "toppling crags of duty,"
Climbed with his own feet and hands,

God's shining tablelands.
Come home, come home to rest,
With them that knew you best.
In Westlawn's sacred sod,
Where, tender gifts of God,
Your children sleep, and where
Your kindred folks are, there,
There, find enduring sleep
Where those you loved can weep,
And dimly see through breaking mists
of gloom
The deathless angel in your tomb.
With boundless love we follow you
Through the golden sunset sea.
By your own faith we follow you
Into the far eternity,
Into the far off land to be
Oh, gentle ruler of the free.

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